

Dear Public Health Committee Members,

As the state historian of Connecticut, I wish to express in the strongest possible terms the damage that will be done to the tourism, history, and heritage communities if you approve SB414 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING GENEALOGISTS' ACCESS TO VITAL RECORDS.

Because of my position, I am frequently contacted by individuals, family associations, and ordinary citizens interested in their family's history, all of whom want to trace their ancestor's roots in Connecticut. This interest should be encouraged, not discouraged by allowing for unnecessary and needless restrictions on public access to vital records. Family history seekers travel long distances, stay in Connecticut hotels, eat in Connecticut restaurants, and attract other to our Still Revolutionary state. all as a result of connection to Connecticut they found during their family history quest.

By creating a legal environment where access to family history records can be ambiguous and arbitrary, you will be choking off a significant source of revenue, tourism, and love of Connecticut history.

I urge you - PLEASE DO NOT VOTE in FAVOR OF SB414.

Thank You!

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